

- 24 -

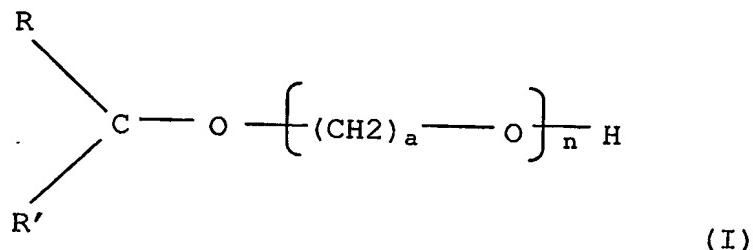
CLAIMS

1. A fabric conditioning composition comprising:

5 (a) an ester-linked quaternary ammonium fabric softening material; and

(b) a nonionic material represented by formula (I):-

10



15

wherein R and R' are independently selected from C<sub>1</sub> to C<sub>15</sub> optionally substituted alkyl, alkenyl, hydroxyalkyl and benzyl groups and the combined number of carbons in R and R' is from 7 to 16, n is from 1 to 9 and a is 2 or 3.

20

2. A composition as claimed in claim 1 wherein, in the nonionic material, n is from 2 to 8.

25 3. A composition as claimed in claim 1 or claim 2 wherein, in the nonionic material, n is from 2 to 6.

4. A composition as claimed in any one of the preceding claims wherein, in the nonionic material, n is from 2 to 30 5.

- 25 -

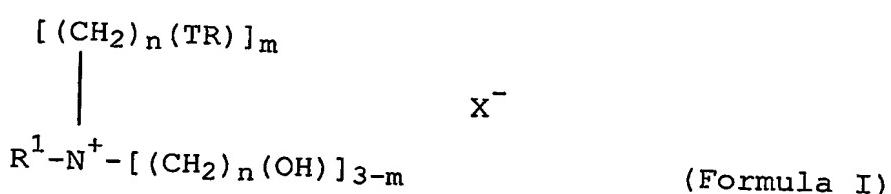
5. A composition as claimed in any one of the preceding claims wherein, in the nonionic material, n is from 2 to 4.

5 6. A composition as claimed in any one of the preceding claims wherein, in the nonionic material, the total number of carbons, R + R', is from 8 to 15.

10 7. A composition as claimed in any one of the preceding claims wherein, in the nonionic material, the total number of carbons, R + R', is from 10 to 15.

15 8. A composition as claimed in any one of the preceding claims wherein, in the nonionic material, the total number of carbons, R + R', is from 11 to 15.

20 9. A composition as claimed in any one of the preceding claims wherein the quaternary ammonium cationic softening material is represented by formula (I):

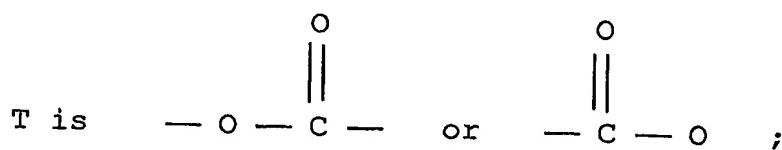


25

wherein each R is independently selected from a C<sub>5-35</sub> alkyl or alkenyl group, R<sup>1</sup> represents a C<sub>1-4</sub> alkyl or hydroxyalkyl group or a C<sub>2-4</sub> alkenyl group,

30

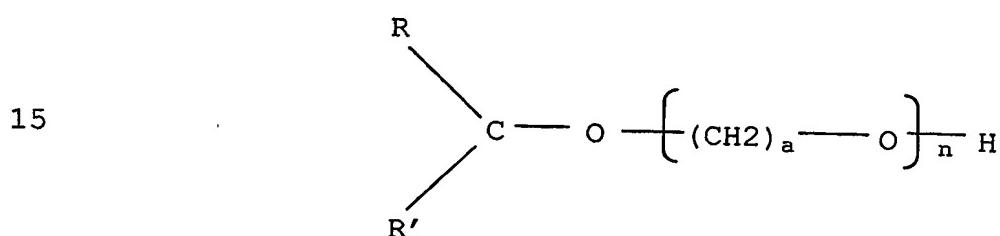
- 26 -



5      n is 0 or an integer selected from 1 to 4, m is 1, 2 or  
 3 and denotes the number of moieties to which it refers  
 that pend directly from the N atom, and X<sup>-</sup> is an anionic  
 group, such as halides or alkyl sulphates, e.g.  
 chloride, methyl sulphate or ethyl sulphate.

10

10. The use of a nonionic material of formula:-



20      wherein R and R' are independently selected from C<sub>1</sub> to  
 C<sub>15</sub> optionally substituted alkyl, alkenyl, hydroxyalkyl  
 and benzyl groups and the combined number of carbons in  
 R and R' is from 7 to 16, n is from 1 to 9 and a is 2  
 or 3

25      in a fabric conditioning composition to improve the  
 elevated temperature storage stability of the fabric  
 conditioning composition.